

Setting the Straw Men on Fire!

By William Schnoebelen © 2015

A video was posted on our thread today (11/28/15) on Facebook entitled, “*Sacred Name Movement Debunked.*” We felt the need to respond, since there are many errors and misconceptions contained within it. It is through discussing these things that Yahuwah’s truth can really emerge.

1. The producer of the video claims that “Sacred Namers” teach that if you do not use the right name you cannot be saved. That is fallacious and only a **small** number of folks in the movement hold to that belief. **We certainly do not teach this**, as I made clear in the video teaching. That is a Straw Man argument, pure and simple.

We teach that Abba is merciful and will meet people where they are. I even made a point in the video of testifying that I was saved many years ago by calling upon the name of Jesus. Over the decades of serious Bible study, I have arrived at an understanding of His true name. But those who have done so are certainly not condemned to hell!

2. The video next brings up the Straw Man about the name Ba’al and its relationship to the English word, “Lord.” It is certainly true that Ba’al can mean either husband or lord or master. A lot depends on the context. But again, he accuses us of something we do not do. While we certainly do not advocate using the name Ba’al, we do not believe that folks who call Yahuwah “Lord” are under some sort of curse.

The video speaks of **Hosea 2:16-17**:

¹⁶ And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali.

¹⁷ For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name.

The video says that the use of the terms ISHI and BA’ALI do not reference the name of a false deity, but rather refer to two titles for husband – the ISHI (my husband or my man) is more intimate and affectionate while the term BAALI is more authoritarian and “lordly.” That is true. Fine.

But he completely *neglects* the next verse here. Here, the prophet says that BAALIM (which is plural in Hebrew) out of her (meaning Israel) mouth and they shall be no more remembered by their name. This is an **entirely** different meaning. The plural BAALIM means false lords or false elohim. Yahuwah, through His servant is saying that at some future point, Yahuwah will remove the custom of calling Him by the term Lord (in English) and will make Israel forget those names. Instead, He will restore the use of His true Name. That is what is happening today.

3. His argument surrounding **Joshua 11:17** is another straw man.

¹⁷ Even from the mount Halak, that goeth up to Seir, even unto Baalgad in the valley of Lebanon under mount Hermon: and all their kings he took, and smote them, and slew them.

We do not teach that Baalgad somehow incriminates the use of the term Gad (pronounced Gawd in Hebrew). While we are not in favor of using the word god and instead use Elohim (the Hebrew – El being the singular), we do not believe that there is some sort of curse or something involved with using it.

4. He then goes to **Jer.23:27**:

²⁷ Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal.

He makes the claim that it is “obvious” that the verse is NOT talking about Israelites forgetting the name of Yahuwah for the name Ba’al. I do not think this is a given. The PLAIN meaning of the text, both in English and in Hebrew is that false prophets (or preachers) have made Yahuwah’s people to forget His name. Obviously, that is true – because only a *tiny* fraction of either Jews or Christians today call upon Him by His true name.

5. He then goes into a discussion of the Hebrew word for name, SHEM. He tries to muddy the waters by the idea of a title versus a name. While it is certainly true that the word name can literally be a name, it can also be something more abstract, like a title or reputation. But why complicate matters? Sound Bible hermeneutic says that if a passage’s literal meaning seems to fit then **NEVER** go to a figurative or symbolic meaning.

I would submit to you that the several passages where Yahuwah talks about the importance of His name and His name being forgotten are most easily interpreted **as they are plainly written**. One does not have to fly off on clouds of fairy dust to find some abstract meaning.

6. He then moves onto **Ex. 3:13-14** where Abba first reveals His name to Moses.

¹³ And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?

¹⁴ And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

He goes into a lengthy examination of the Hebrew verb forms that is all well and good, but it does nothing to refute the position that His name is Yahuwah. See the very next verse!

¹⁵ And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, the LORD God (Hebrew: **Yahuwah Elohim**) of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

What could be clearer? His name is Yahuwah. Yes, He has titles, like Elohim or Eyl Shaddai, but His actual NAME is Yahuwah. I have titles. I am a son. I am a husband. I am a doctor, etc. But my NAME is William.

7. He then claims there is much confusion about how to say the name. That is, to an extent, true – but more of it is unnecessary. Scholars and pseudo-scholars have obfuscated it. I explain clearly in my video how we arrived at the pronunciation we use. We believe that is not as important that we speak the name exactly right, but that at least we TRY to get it right. That is more than 99% of the Body of Messiah (or the Jewish people) are doing! Again, it is not a salvation issue.

8. He then goes into a long dissertation on NIKKUD (Hebrew vowel pointing). That is how vowel sounds were added to Hebrew centuries after Messiah. We do not believe NIKKUD pointing is inspired, so that is another straw man.

9. There is then a discussion of the fact that some “Sacred Namers” teach that the name Zeus can be found in Jesus. We do not teach this and do not believe it is supported by either linguistics or philology. NOR do we believe that there is some relation between the term Christ and Krishna as the video claims.

10. Then he goes into how to pronounce Yahushua’s name and makes the common assertion that Aramaic was the street language of that time in Israel. In Aramaic, His name would have been Yeshua.

Two points here:

- 1) We do not care if you chose to call Him Yeshua – it is a whole lot better than calling Him Jesus, a name that did not even exist until the 15th century.
- 2) That being said, you need to understand that Hebrew was regarded as THE sacred language (LASHON QADOSH in Hebrew). It was used by Scripture study, in synagogue services and in preaching. Yes, many in day-to-day life used Aramaic, but consider this. Yahushua's name (as I said in the video) is exactly the same as the Hebrew for Joshua. It was given to His mother Mary by an angel. Do you think the angel Gabriel came down from heaven to give the name of the promised Messiah in common street language? No, Gabriel would have said His name would be called **Yahushua** – Hebrew – the way the name appears countless times in the Tenakh (Old Testament).

11. Two more points and we are done. He states that the apostolic writers wrote the New Testament in Greek. Therefore, they would have called our Savior IESOUS.

Increasingly, scholars are beginning to doubt that. We know there was a Hebrew version of Matthew's gospel. We also know that many of the non-Pauline writings (James, Peter and John) show evidence (grammatically) of having been translated from Hebrew into Greek for wider circulation. Even Revelation contains many Hebrew idioms. So his matter-of-fact statement is no longer a sure thing.

12. He also gets into mocking the idea that there is power in saying His name properly – claiming it is rooted in occult Qabalah. He says there is no evidence for it in the Bible. He hasn't read it very carefully then. Consider this:

In John's gospel narrative of Yahushua's arrest there is a unique account that only he shares (**John 18:6**):

As soon then as he had said unto them, I am *he*, they went backward, and fell to the ground.

In the King James Bible, the translators were careful to italicize the word "he." That means it was not in the original writing. In Hebrew, Yahushua said I AM – a form of the Divine Name. What happened? All the troops fell backward onto the ground! I would say that is power!

Then there is Acts 4:7

And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what NAME, have ye done this?

In Acts 4:18, a few verses later, the authorities forbade the Apostles from SPEAKING the name. Why would they do that? The people understood that there was POWER in the name of Yahushua! It was linked to His name. Of course we have this as well...

In the NAME of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, - 1 Cor. 5:4

Again, the power and authority of Yahushua are linked to His name! Finally we have this:

The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe. – Prov. 18:10

While this does not specifically mention speaking His name, it is still a strong statement on the power of the Divine Name.

13. The video tries make a case for saying this is Qabalah or magic to say that there is power in speaking His name correctly. But how is this different from Believers who pray for healing “in the name of Jesus” or even cast out devils in “the name of Jesus?” Is this magical thinking too?

In the early days of our deliverance ministry, we cast out demons all the time in the name of Jesus. It was very effective – but for the last decade or so we have been using the name He was called by His family and His disciples, Yahushua – and it seems much more effective and powerful. Is that magical thinking?

As I believe we have made clear, we do not think it matters to get the pronunciation exact – but we believe Abba Yahuwah honors our effort to avoid using made up names (like Jesus or Jehovah) and to come as close as possible to calling Him and His Son by their real names.

No, we are not a cult. We believe all the elements of Biblical saving faith! No, we do not believe you must call on the names Yahuwah or Yahushua to be saved. Jesus will work. We just believe it is more respectful and more effective to call them by their right names.

Wouldn't you like folks to call you by your correct name? How can it be wrong to wish to show respect for the Almighty Creator of the Universe Who sent His Son down here to suffer and die for us?

We end with a copy of an actual ancient rendition found by archaeologists of the Father's name in Paleo (pre-Babylonian) Hebrew.

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